

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08  
IO-13 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03  
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /116 W  
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P R 011524Z MAR 78  
FM USINT HAVANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1280  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0542

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV PBOR MILI ETRD EPAP CU ET SO UR  
SUBJ: GRANMA CALLS FOR MAXIMUM SUGAR EFFORT

REF: HAVANA 523

1. MAJOR AUTHORITATIVE GRANMA EDITORIAL, FEBRUARY 28, PRESUM-  
ABLY ISSUED AS RESULT OF POLITBURO SUGAR HARVEST REVIEW,  
FEBRUARY 24 (REFTEL)N CALLS FOR MAXIMUM EFFORT FOR NEXT  
HUNDRED DAYS IN MAKING UP SERIOUS RAIN-IMPOSED LAGS IN  
1978 SUGAR HARVEST. DIRECT IMPACT THAT THIS MAJOR EFFORT  
WILL HAVE ON ADDITIONAL ETHIOPIA-RELATED MOBILIZATION POSSIB-  
ILITIES IS EVIDENT IN EDITORIAL'S STATEMENT THAT IT IS  
NECESSARY "IMMEDIATELY" TO BRING UP TO FULL FORCE THE NUMBER  
OF INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN HAND CANE-CUTTING - A NUMBER WHICH  
EDITORIALS IS NOW NATIONALLY EIGHT THOUSAND PEOPLE BELOW  
PLANNED LEVEL. IN ADDITION, EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT  
ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF HAND-CUTTERS WILL BE REQUIRED IN  
AREAS WHERE WEATHER CONDITIONS INTERFERE WITH MECHANIZED  
HARVESTING. FURTHERMORE, MAJOR EFFORTS MUST BE MADE  
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TO OVERCOME LAGS IN PREPARATORY WORK FOR 1979 AND 1980  
HARVESTS, EDITORIAL SAYS. GRANMA POINTS OUT, PRESUMABLY  
BOTH AS STIMULUS AND RECOGNITION OF DIFFICULTIES, THAT  
PROBLEM MUST BE HANDLED AT TIME WHEN OTHER "THOUSANDS"  
OF CUBANS ARE "CARRYING OUT WITH HONOR AND ABNEGATION THEIR  
SACRED INTERNATIONALIST DUTIES FAR FROM OUR LAND".

2. EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT "IMPORTANT INCREASE" IN PRODUCTION IS PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR - AN INCREASE WHICH EDITORIAL CLAIMS IS ALREADY COMMITTED TO BUYERS. EDITORIAL CONTINUES THAT " IT IS NOT ONLY THE MOST VITAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS, BUT ALSO (CONSIDERATIONS OF) THE PRESTIGE AND SERIOUSNESS OF CUBA WHICH IMPOSES ON US THE DUTY OF GUARANTEEING THESE DELIVERIES TO THE USSR, OTHER FRIENDLY AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, AND TO ALL MARKETS OF OUR SUGAR." (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CUBA WILL BE LIMITED BY ISA QUOTA REDUCTION MECHANISM TO FIRST YEAR EXPORT ALLOCATION OF ABOUT 2 MILLION TONS - AND WILL PROBABLY HAVE TROUBLE SELLING THIS AMOUNT, USSR PURCHASEES UNDER FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT RISE TO MINIMUM 2.7 MILLION TONS THIS YEAR- EXCLUDING ANY ADDITIONAL HARD CURRENCY PURCHASES WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN CONTRACTED. WE HAVE RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT COMECON EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE BOOSTED THEIR PLANNED PURCHASES TO 620 THOUSAND TONS THIS YEAR. THESE FIGURES, COMBINED WITH REPORTED INCREASES IN CHINESE PURCHASES, MAY BE CAUSING CONCERN OVER ABILITY TO MEET COMMITMENTS. WE, INCIDENTALLY, CALCULATE TOTAL LIKELY CUBAN SALES AS NO MORE THAN 6.2 MILLION TONS. CUBAN ANXIETY OVER SATISFYING COMMITMENTS MAY, THEREFORE, INDICATE THAT HARVEST MAY FALL UNDER LAST YEARS'S POSSIBLY FALSELY REPORTED 6.345 MILLION TONS.)

3. COMMENT: WHILE HUNDRED-DAY CAMPAIGN TO COMPLETE SUGAR  
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HARVEST WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PLACE FURTHER SQUEEZE ON POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE MILITARY MANPOWER POOL, ONE CAUTIONARY NOTE IS APPROPRIATE. EDITORIAL STATES THAT HARVEST PROBLEMS ARE PARTICULARLY SEVERE IN SIX PROVINCES (LAS TUNAS, VILLA CLARA, HOLGUIN, CAMAGUEY, CIEGO DE AVILA, AND GRANMA) WHERE PRODUCTION IS FALLING BELOW 80 PERCENT OF CAPACITY. THIS MAY INDICATE THAT ONLY IN THESE PROVINCES WILL MASSIVE LABOR MOBILIZATIONS BE REQUIRED TO SPUR PRODUCTION. ALSO, EDITORIAL SPEAKS OF NEED TO "CONVINCE" EXPERIENCED CANE-CUTTERS AND PEASANTS NOW PARTICIPATING IN HARVEST TO WORK DOUBLE SHIFTS AND TO GIVE UP REST AND FOR ALL HARVEST PERSONNEL TO REMEDY CURRENT PRODUCTION DROPS ON WEEKEND. THUS, EFFORT MAY CENTERED ON SQUEEZING MORE PRODUCTION OUT OF CURRENTLY DEPLOYED LABOR FORCE.  
GLASSMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, SUGAR, PRODUCTION, FOREIGN MARKETS  
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**Draft Date:** 01 mar 1978  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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